



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

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For Immediate Release

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**COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD COMMENDS ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TONI ATKINS ON THE
SIGNING OF AB 1623, A NEW STATE LAW THAT WILL PROTECT VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

San Diego, CA – July 11, 2014 – San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald commends Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins for authoring a new law that will protect the privacy of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Governor has signed Atkins' bill, AB 1623, affording greater privacy protections at San Diego's Family Justice Center and programs like it throughout California.

"This new law comes at a crucial time, when greater numbers of women and children are struggling with violence in their homes," says City Councilmember Marti Emerald, the Chair of the San Diego Family Justice Center Task Force.

"Many victims of abuse stay in dangerous relationships because they fear repercussions from abusers when they try to get help. Now, programs like our Family Justice Center will be able to give them the privacy and services they so desperately need. I believe this new law will save lives."

AB 1623 is especially important in communities like City Heights, where reports of domestic abuse are far higher than in other areas of San Diego.

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